



## Citizen Corps

**Stressing the need for volunteer efforts to combat crime and terrorism and respond to natural disasters, President George W. Bush introduced Citizen Corps as part of the USA Freedom Corps program.**

Citizen Corps is a federal initiative that aims to harness the spirit of volunteerism to better prepare citizens, neighborhoods, and communities through education, training, and volunteer service.

Citizen Corps Councils, which coordinate volunteer initiatives at the state and local levels, help make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to disasters of all kinds.

Led by OEM, the Citizen Corps Council of New York City brings together leaders from law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services, emergency management, volunteer organizations, the private sector, and local government to promote community preparedness through public education and volunteer programs. The Council exercises inclusive membership and ensures programs are available to meet all levels of interest and capability.

In addition to its key programs (Community Emergency Response Teams, Medical Reserve Corps, Blockwatchers, and Auxiliary Police), the NYC Citizen Corps Council includes over 30 partners that are committed to ensuring New Yorkers are prepared.